

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 3-9 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 are currently being amended, but not in a manner that narrows the scope of the claim. Claims 1 and 2 are pending for further consideration on their merits.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Information Disclosure Statement Filed November 28, 2000

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO/SB/08A on November 28, 2000. However, the initialed PTO SB/08A was not included with the Office Action. The Examiner is kindly requested to provide the initialed PTO form.

Objection to the Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were objected to because Claims 1 and 2 are method claims but were not "written in method form." In response, Claims 1 and 2 are currently amended. As no other objections or rejections were made to claims 1 and 2, Applicant submits that Claims 1 and 2 are now allowable and Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawada et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,062), in view of Munemori et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,023). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawada et al., in view of Munemori et al., and Sakamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,045,931). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawada et al., in view of Troxel (U.S. Patent No. 5,124,803). Lastly, Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawada et al., in view of Sakamoto.

Without acquiescing or agreeing to the rejection, Applicant cancels Claims 3-9 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

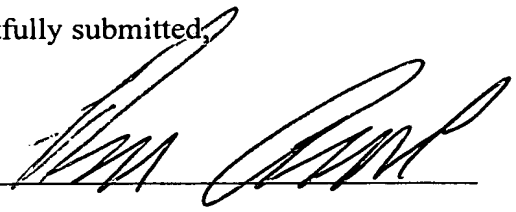
After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1 and 2 are now pending in this application. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 1, 2004

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888